

## Consultation on topics for the 2011 Census

### Introduction

1. This paper summarises the user consultation on 2011 Census content that has been completed so far, and gives information about the consultation underway.

### Action for advisory groups

2. **This paper is for information only, although advisory group members are invited to express an interest in being involved in any current or future topic-specific consultation if not already included.**

### Background

3. In May 2005 ONS published a consultation document '*The 2011 Census: Initial view on content for England and Wales*' on the National Statistics web-site:  
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/2011Census.asp>

Responses were received from nearly 500 users, presenting arguments for the inclusion of around 70 topics (over 2,000 'topic responses').

4. Alongside this consultation, eight internal ONS working groups were established to investigate detailed user requirements for specific topics and develop and test questions to meet these needs. Five of these groups started in 2005, and have consulted with users on detailed requirements, and recommended new or modified questions for the 2007 Census Test. The remaining groups started in 2006 and will consult with users to develop questions to be considered for inclusion in the 2009 Census Rehearsal and 2011 Census.
5. Advisory group members may have been involved in one or more of these exercises, and are welcome to request involvement in any others of interest.

### Completed consultation

6. Topic specific consultation was completed for a number of topics during the question development process for the 2007 Census Test. These topics are:
  - Income
  - Labour market and qualifications
  - Health and Care

7. The user requirement for these topics was central to the development of the questions to be used in the 2007 Census Test.

It is possible that limited further consultation on these topics will be required, but this has not yet been planned in detail.

### **Current consultation**

8. Topic-specific consultation is underway or starting shortly for a number of topics:
  - Population definitions and bases
  - Ethnicity, identity, language and religion
  - Migration
  - Demographics and household relationships
  - Housing
9. The topic-specific consultation will include appropriate representatives from central government departments, local government, the NHS, business and academia to ensure as wide a range of views as possible.
10. The findings of this consultation will inform the development of questions for consideration for inclusion in the 2009 Census Rehearsal and 2011 Census.

### **Population definitions and bases**

11. User consultation on detailed requirements for the definitions and bases to be used in the 2011 Census, and the questions required to achieve this, started in April 2005 and is ongoing.
12. This consultation is conducted through the Population Definitions Working Group (PDWG), chaired by Chris Smith from the ONS Centre for Demography (ONSCD). The PDWG includes representatives from across the user community and meets bi-monthly.

### **Ethnicity, identity, language and religion**

13. User consultation on detailed requirements for these topics started in April 2005 and is ongoing.
14. Consultation so far has so far been conducted primarily through meetings and discussions with members of the National Statistics Working Group on Ethnicity and Identity. This work will be supplemented by a correspondence based exercise to improve understanding of requirements, and a number of focus groups to help assess the acceptability of questions and terminology that could be used.
15. A wide range of users and stakeholders, including all member of the Diversity Advisory Group (DiAG), will be sent background information about the work of the topic group and a questionnaire to help improve understanding of detailed requirements.
16. A paper summarising the requirements identified through this consultation will be circulated to the users and stakeholders who contributed for agreement, to inform future small-scale question testing.

## **Migration**

17. User consultation for these topics is being led by staff from ONSCD with expertise in Migration. This consultation is in progress and is being conducted by correspondence and through the PDWG.
18. A wide range of people from across the user community, and members of the ONS Migration task force, were sent background information about the work of the topic group and a questionnaire to help improve understanding of detailed user requirements.
19. A paper summarising the requirements identified through this consultation will be circulated to the users who contributed for agreement before small-scale question testing starts.

## **Demographics and household relationships**

20. User consultation for these topics is being led by staff from ONSCD. The consultation is in progress and is being conducted primarily by correspondence.
21. A wide range of people from across the user community were sent background information about the work of the topic group and a questionnaire to help improve understanding of detailed user requirements.
22. A paper summarising the requirements identified through this consultation will be circulated to the users who contributed for agreement before small-scale question testing starts.

## **Housing**

23. User consultation for all housing topics is in progress and is being conducted primarily by correspondence.
24. A wide range of people from across the user community were sent background information about the work of the topic group and a questionnaire to help improve understanding of detailed user requirements.
25. A paper summarising the requirements identified through this consultation will be circulated to the users who contributed for agreement before small-scale question testing starts.

## **Advisory group involvement in consultation**

26. In addition to being consulted on Census content through the advisory group meetings, members are invited to request inclusion in the topic-specific consultation exercises for topics of interest.
27. Members who would like to be included in these exercises should send their contact details, together with an indication of the topic(s) of interest to: [Censustopics@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Censustopics@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

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